

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 /048 R

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APPROVED BY EUR: LBLAINGEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: CHARGE GAUCI CALLS ON DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY: GAUCI MADE COURTESY CALLS AT NSC AND DEPARTMENT JANUARY 8, STRESSING GOM INTEREST IN INCREASED US-MALTESE CONTACTS AND PM'S DESIRE FOR AN EARLY MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. GAUCI SAID GOM HAS BEEN VIEWED WITH SUSPICION, AND WANTS TO RESOLVE MISUNDERSTANDING AND PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN MEDITERRANEAN. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS LEFT POSSIBILITY OF MEETING OPEN.

1) GAUCI MADE HIS FIRST CALLS AT DEPARTMENT AND ON NSC STAFF JANUARY 8. IN EACH DISCUSSION HE SAID THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE MORE CONTACTS WITH WASHINGTON AND EXPLAINED THAT PRESS OF UN BUSINESS WITH LITTLE STAFF KEPT HIM IN NEW YORK. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BEFORE LEAVING MALTA TO INCREASE CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON. HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR SMITH HAD VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN VALLETTA.

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2) GAUCI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THE PM ATTACHES TO A

MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. MINTOFF, HE SAID, FEELS MORE AT EASE IN A TETE-A-TETE THAN IN GOING THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS AND WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE ANY SCHEDULING

ADJUSTMENT NECESSARY TO MEET THE SECRETARY. MINTOFF'S PURPOSE WOULD BE TO EXPLAIN THE PERCEPTIONS OF A SMALL COUNTRY THAT IS AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE FEELS MALTA IS MISINTERPRETED. GAUCI MENTIONED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EYEBROWS WERE RAISED OVER MALTA'S VOTES AT THE UN AND CALLED DIFFERENCES OVER MULTILATERAL ISSUES A "MISUNDERSTANDING". THE HEART TO HEART TALK THAT THE PM IS SEEKING WOULD SUPPOSEDLY LEAD ALSO TO NEW INITIATIVES -- MALTA COULD BE A FOCAL POINT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. GAUCI SAID MINTOFF'S VIEWS HAD BEEN FOUND INTERESTING IN W. GERMANY AND ITALY AND IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE PRESENT THEM TO THE SECRETARY.

3) GAUCI COULD NOT SAY WHAT MINTOFF WANTED TO DISCUSS SPECIFICALLY. HE FELT THAT ARAB-ISRAELI AFFAIRS MIGHT BE ONE TOPIC AS MINTOFF IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEM AND HAS CONTACTS WITH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. GAUCI REMARKED THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF 20 FOR PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS, MALTA "CAN BE OF HELP." ASKED ABOUT GOM RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE LAR, GAUCI SUGGESTED THE PM MIGHT DISCUSS THIS.

4) GAUCI DEPLORED ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "SILLY" AND EMOTIONAL. HE THOUGHT THAT GIVEN MORE TIME SOME SMALL COUNTRIES COULD HAVE DISSUADED THE RADICALS FROM PURSUING IT AND URGED THAT IT BE VIEWED IN THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH IT TOOK PLACE. GAUCI DID NOT DISCUSS DIFFERENCES ON KOREAN RESOLUTION.

5) LAW OF THE SEA AROSE REPEATEDLY. GAUCI WILL BE IN CHARGE OF GOM DELEGATION AT NEXT SESSION BEGINNING IN MARCH. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO DEFER A SUBSEQUENT SESSION TO EARLY 1977 RATHER THAN LATER THIS YEAR. HE ALSO BROUGHT UP, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFF, MALTA'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR LOS IN MALTA.
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6) GAUCI WAS ENCOURAGED TO CALL ON DEPARTMENT AT ANY TIME. WE TOLD HIM WE WOULD BE WATCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR A POSSIBLE MEETING OF MINTOFF WITH SECRETARY BUT COULD NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE007780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JVSMITH:JF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0184
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760161/aaaaccok.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARGE GAUCI CALLS ON DEPARTMENT SUMMARY: GAUCI MADE COURTESY CALLS AT NSC AND DEPARTMENT
TAGS: PFOR, MT, US
To: VALLETTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006